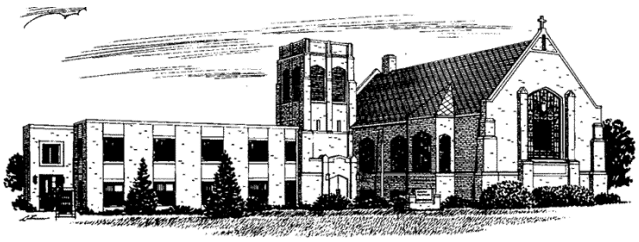
SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph



The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary
Danielle Hohman, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

January 2018

We'd like to think it doesn't or can't happen around here. But it does. The statistics are staggering. The facts are overwhelming. I am referring to Human Trafficking. January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. It is an appropriate time to learn more about this subject, even if you would prefer not to. I encourage you to do so. Lives are at stake.

Check out some facts:
https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/facts
Check out what's happening right here in Michigan:
https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/michigan
Check out the myths and misconceptions:
https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions
Check out some resources:
https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources
Check out the signs:
https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs

Saron is a member of the Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force which helps provide awareness and education to health workers, police officers, and the general public. If you are on FaceBook, you can "like" the Task Force's page.
https://www.facebook.com/swmihumantrafficking/

Thank you for your willingness to work to learn about and eliminate modern day slavery.

Pastor Joan

Annual Meeting
Saron's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th, 2018. A potluck will follow the 11:00 worship and the meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm. All voting members of Saron are encouraged to attend, as we adopt a spending plan for 2017, receive reports, and hold elections.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; and **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace: **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville;

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**
Sarah Deal Burrow – Afghanistan

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in January 2018.

Jan. 2 - Betty Ross
Sophie de la Foret
3 – Richard Schalon
4 - Zachery Booth
Kathleen Preston
9 - Anthony Kickles, Jr.
13 - Nicholas Jantz
14 - T. J. Koehler
15 - Meredith Hammer
Pat Breyen
Walter Schmuhl
Colin Ashley
16 - Jonah Rood
18 - Hayley Frey
19 – Kathie Nadeau
Karen Hinckley
24 - Lyra Krall
25 – Karen Johnson

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in January …

Jan. 1 - Charles and Linda Pater
2 – Jim and Jennifer Nicholas
19 – Steve and Denise Cook

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

WITH SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bruce Huff upon his death December 7. We keep his wife, Linda, and the rest of his family in our prayers.

Also, to Nicole and Victor Coar and family upon the death of Vic's father, Bill Coar; and to Janet and Bill Oleson and family upon the death of Janet's mother, Dorothy Nordlander.

God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1a

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer congratulations to Claire and Kyle Carter upon the birth of their son, Lee Joseph, on December 8.

TIME TO RENEW "LIVING LUTHERAN" MAGAZINE

"Living Lutheran," the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, keeps us informed of events and issues impacting Lutherans. Subscribers also have access online to more than 9,000 archived articles and 400 Study guides. Those that have been enjoying *"Living Lutheran"* this past year or those who would like to begin receiving *"Living Lutheran"* will be able to purchase or renew for the price of $9.00 a year.

Please make out a check to Saron and write "Living Lutheran" in the memo area of your check or place cash in an envelope clearly identified with your name, the amount enclosed and the words *"Living Lutheran."* This can be handed in to the office or placed in the offering plate. We want to get all of the subscriptions in as soon as possible so that there will be no lapse in current subscriptions.

"Thank you" does not begin to express our gratitude for the many Christmas greetings and expressions of the season that are being shared with Jim and myself. We are blessed to be part of this community of faith and are delighted to be serving with you. We appreciate each and every one of you for who you are and that we share together in the body of Christ. Pastor Joan and Jim

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day

Sunday Jan 7 –
Baptism of Our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday Jan 14 –
Second Sunday After Epiphany
1 Samuel 1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Sunday Jan 21 –
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Sunday Jan 28 –
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Nursery Help Needed

We are seeking a paid child care worker, age 18 or above. If you know of someone interested, please contact Mary Kynast or Pastor. Also, we always welcome more volunteers for the nursery. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Thursday Bible Class

Our gatherings resume on Thursday, January 4, at 9:30 a.m. with a one week study on The Salvation Army. Beginning January 11 we will return to our study on the Catechism, beginning with The Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Newcomers welcome!

Men's Monthly Devotion

On Saturday, January 6, 2018 Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast group will meet at the Galley Grill on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership. We welcome new participants!

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).
Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume on January 2, 2018. During the following 8 gatherings, we will study other religions in the world. The schedule of leaders is as follows:

Study of World Religions
Jan 2 - Hinduism - Bob Deaton
Jan 9 - Judaism - Bob Kynast
Jan 16 - Buddhism - Don Hafer
Jan 23 - Confucianism and Daoism - Brad Frey
Jan 30 - Shito - Eric Standen
Feb 6 - Islam - Charlie Pater
Feb 13 - Apr 1 - Lent and Easter – no Bible Study
Apr 3 - Christianity - What we believe – Tom Taylor
Apr 10 - Two Common Questions - Tyler Cook

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will not have a meeting in January. February 11, 2018 (note change to second Sunday), 6:30 in the upstairs lounge, we will be together again to discuss, "Lilac Girls", by Martha Hall Kelly. This one is well worth the wait. If you read and liked "The Nightingale" or "Sarah's Key", you will like this book about the power of unsung women to change history. An American socialite, a Polish teenager and an ambitious young, female German doctor find themselves thrown together in most unexpected ways. Much has been written about WWII, soldiers, battles, concentration camps, etc. This is an entirely different perspective and based, in part, on true happenings. It's a story that will stay with you long after you turn the last page.

Come and join us for a good discussion. Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"We read to know we're not alone".
(William Nicholson, Shadowlands)

Youth

January Youth Group

Youth Group will be meeting January 7, 2018 at 12:30 for Bible Study and Mario Kart racing. We'll be playing until 2:30. Any non-youth that would like to volunteer and attend, please let Scott know. scottgaspari@outlook.com.

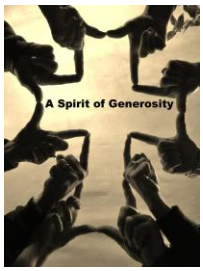
HOUSTON BOUND

We're heading to Houston next Summer for the National Youth Gathering. Two youth (Meredith Gacek and Jenna Henderson), as well as two adults (Laurel Gacek and Pastor Joan) are registered. Watch for more news about this exciting event.

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.



….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46c

As we prepare for another new year let us remember with gratitude all that God has given us: our time and talents, our treasures, our lives. May we be the eyes and ears and the hands and feet of Christ as we show his love and compassion in our church, our neighborhoods, our communities and the world beyond.

We are especially thankful for the generosity of Saron's people. Saron is blessed with a congregation filled with people of all ages who are willing to share their gifts with others. May we continue to give with glad and generous hearts and may God guide us as we live out our mission in 2018.

God's work. Our hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick.

Saron Lutheran Church Endowment Committee

The mission of the Endowment Committee is to support missions to aid persons both locally and internationally and provide improvements to Saron's facilities. The Committee balances the giving to each of these three goals annually to insure funds are available for growth of each. Since its inception, the Endowment Committee has awarded over $50,000 for the three areas it focuses on for improvement to missions and facilities. The Committee is always seeking the needs of any mission that may be assisted by its funding and encourages members to inform Committee members of needs of any program that may further their mission. For further information contact Dave Bailey, chair of the Endowment Committee.

Financial Secretary News

Nanci Fenrick, our financial secretary works in the office on Wednesday afternoons, beginning at approximately 2:00. You can reach Nanci at the office during that time. She is also open to phone calls at 269/845-2595 or an e-mail at **nanci0126@yahoo.com**

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

"Joyfully Sharing God's Love For All." Yes, that is what Saron does every day.

In December, poinsettias were delivered to Saron members who are not able to regularly attend worship. We also remembered our 6 college students: Austin, Danielle, Connor, Michael, Tim and Drew, with a "Good Luck on Exams "card and a Meijer Gift Certificate.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these acts of kindness possible.

FACEBOOK

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your own or your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

MICHIGAN BLOOD DRIVE -

Tis the season of giving, sharing, and sweet things to eat! Yelp you guessed it, it's Blood Drive time! Fa LaLaLaLaLa LaLa LaLa (still working on a Blood Drive season song). So don't be stingy give a little of yourself and time to make others enjoy and thank you for the gift of blood. In return the Blood Drive Fairy, Bob, will give you treats to snack on! So, mark your calendars January 22nd from 2:00pm to 6:00pm to donate you life giving blood, (hey you don't have to wrap your gift we'll bag it for you!)

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

November 23, 2017 was Thanksgiving Day. The Grand Mere Inn Restaurant, in Stevensville, provided most of the meal for the Thanksgiving dinner. Saron helped with a few extras; we provided all the pies and cranberry sauce.

Special thanks to Saron folks for donating cranberry sauce. Pie bakers were: Deb Standen, Keith Stevens, Kathie Bradley, and Ruth Ball. 107 people were served.

"God's Work. Our Hands"

Jan Stevens and Amy Nelson

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Sarah Deal Burrow – News

Sarah Deal Burrow is currently serving in the military in Afghanistan. As a small way of supporting Sarah we have been sending her "care packages" of some of her favorite things or basic needed items. Thank you to Mark and Judy Wedde, who packaged and shipped off another box for Sarah on Dec 4, 2017.

Women of the ELCA

SARON CHURCH WOMEN BAKE SALE

Saron Church Women thanks everyone who participated in the Bake Sale held on December 10, 2017. Proceeds from that day came to $497.00.

Thanks, also, for the continued donations on December 17, totaling an additional $129.00. The grand total of $626.00 will be divided among ELCA Good Gifts, the Berrien County Department of Health and Human Services Operation Good Cheer project (so six foster children can each receive three Christmas gifts), and the Saron Mentor Family Fund. Mentor Family Fund donations are accepted throughout the year. Thanks, again, for all of your support!

On Sunday, January 14, 2018 Saron Church Women Officers and Leaders will be installed. They are:
President: Melanie McCammon
Vice President: Linda Pater
Secretary: Janet Oleson
Treasurer: Denise Cook
Mission: Action Chair: Colleen Lundgren
CWU Representative: Irma Gorman
Deborah Circle Chair: Melanie McCammon
Dorcas Circle Chair: Irma Gorman

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle's Christmas Party will be held at the home of Linda Pater on Wednesday, January 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone should bring a dish to pass (not dessert) and also a monetary gift for the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Car pooling will leave the church at 6:00 p.m. for those who wish to ride together.

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as it saves the church money in office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

New Dishwasher Installed at Saron

A new Hobart Dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen at Saron. PLEASE NOTE. There is no need to add any chemicals when doing a load. DO NOT ADD ANY SOAP, DETERGENT, SANITIZERS OR RINSE AIDE when operating the dishwasher. The new machine is programmed to dispense detergent, sanitizer and drying aids at the proper time during the wash cycle from supply bottles located in a cabinet to the left of the washer. Therefore, there is no need to add any chemicals to the load. It's all done automatically.

Council News

Attendance Record	
12/03/2017	*117*
12/10/2017	*98*
12/17/2017	*96*

Saron's Council Members – 2017

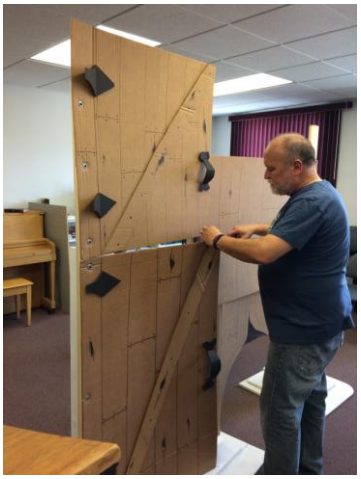
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth*
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Support*
Tyler Cook (269-930-2810) – Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor **liaison*

Youth Christmas Program

Thank you to everyone for your help and for your work to help share the message of Christmas. The list of people to be thanked include Kristen Harper and Amanda Bradley for their awesome leadership, Irma Gorman, MaryAlice Brunner, Laura Chaddock, and Laurel Gacek for accompaniment, Marcus Roll for organizing and directing the youth chime choir, Keith Stevens for building the set, and to all the students and parents whose presence and hard work brought the message to life.

We'd also like to thank Nolan Becker, Molly Becker, and Jenna Henderson for taking leadership roles in the worship liturgy.



SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2018

2018 FLOWER CALENDAR - *The 2018 flower calendar is posted. Cost: $25.00/vase. This is an opportunity for you to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. The church orders the flowers (unless you indicate otherwise) and you can take the flowers home after 2nd service.*

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES - *You may pick up your 2018 offering envelopes* ***today!*** *They may be found near the church entrance doors. If you receive a giving statement (whether you give through the envelope system or electronically) there is likely a box for you.*

Saron's Vision Statements

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry
Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.
Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.
Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.
Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.
Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning!

Saron Volunteer Schedule

	January 7 ***Baptism of Our Lord***		***January 14*** ***Second Sunday After Epiphany***		***January 21*** ***Third Sunday after Epiphany***		***January 28*** ***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	***8:30***	***11:00***	***8:30***	***11:00***
Assisting minister	Jan Stevens	Bill Oleson	Eric Standen	Scott Kohs	Wendy King	Tyler Cook	Sue Rood	Dennis Lundgren
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	Pauline Ngonyani	Bob Deaton	Sally Schmuhl	Laurel Gacek	Jim Manore	Bob Kynast	Eric Standen	Dan Fortenbacher
Ushers	Eric and Deb Standen	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Walt Schmuhl & Fritz Knauf	Peter and Karen Johnson	Keith Stevens & Steve Bell	Jerry and Ruth Stelling	Dave & Sue Bailey	Matt Bradley & Krin Jurgensen
Acolyte		Grant Gacek	Brooke Henderson	Molly Becker	Troy Burrow	Meredith Gacek	Brandon Burrow	Mia Bradley
Nursery 1st	Allison Rood	Krin Jurgensen	MaryAlice Brunner	Karen Hinckley	Fran Richards	Ruth Stelling	Deb Standen	Mary Kynast
Nursery 2nd								
Bldg. close		Marilyn and Brad Frey		open		Bob Hopkins		Kathie and Dave Bradley
Snacks								
Flowers								

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sundays: *Worship at 8:30 & 11:00a.m with Holy Communion* *9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes*	1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	3 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	4 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
7 *Worship/ Learning Schedule Above* 12:30 p.m. Youth Group Meets	8 Newsletter articles due Annual Report articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	9 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Support Committee	10 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:30 p.m. Deborah Circle Christmas Party	11 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 *Worship/ Learning Schedule Above* 11:00 a.m. Installation of Saron Church Women Officers	15 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	16 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	17 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	18 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 *Worship/ Learning Schedule Above* 5:00 p.m. Ephesus Bible Study Group	22 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	23 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	24 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	25 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 *Worship/Learning Schedule Above* 12:00pm Potluck 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting	29 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	30 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	31 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study			